

TRIBUTE TO MAREE CHAVEZ

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great sense of honor that I rise to pay tribute to Maree Chavez. Maree has donated countless hours to helping women with cancer in Colorado.

As a child growing up in Colorado, Maree felt like she needed to give back. As she began her career as a hair stylist, Maree organized fundraisers and spent many hours in Craig Hospital cutting the hair of patients who were unable to move. When Maree met a young child who had bone cancer, she was inspired to volunteer for the American Cancer Society. Maree, along with friends and staff, raised more than \$6,000 for the child and her family.

Maree now works with the "Look Good, Feel Better" program, helping women to style their hair, do their make up, and give them a feeling of belonging. She says that by doing this for these women it gives them their "sparkle" back. Although she has been organizing

them for many years, Maree's fundraising efforts have not stopped, they have gotten stronger. This last summer she raised \$3,000 when she ran in the Marine Corps Marathon. All of Maree's hard work to help others comes from her strong and kind spirit, which will continue to help the people of her community.

Mr. Speaker, it is with privilege that I recognize Maree Chavez before this body of Congress and this nation today. Her efforts to help the women of her community have restored their self-image and provided something much more important, their self-esteem.

TRIBUTE TO OLLIE MARIE PHASON

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Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great sense of pride that I honor Ms. Ollie Marie Phason. Ms. Phason's strength in the face of adversity is a true inspiration. Ollie's life was changed forever in 1993 when her six-year-old son, Broderick, was wounded by a 9mm bul-

let, from gang crossfire. Broderick made a miraculous recovery in three months. Her ability to overcome her shock and sorrow, and in response, make a difference in the lives of others, is truly commendable.

Ollie's response to this tragedy was admirable, as she became highly involved in the Denver Safe City Program. This program was designed to keep children off the streets and involve them in extracurricular activities, which contribute to the well-being of these juveniles. Ollie's active involvement and energy in this issue created new policies to protect and enrich the lives of the children of Denver. As a single mother, her efforts and success in creating positive change within the community are to be greatly commended. In addition to her involvement with the Denver Safe City Program, Ollie currently owns a small pedicure and foot massage business, Marie for Feet, to supplement her income.

Mr. Speaker, it is with privilege that I recognize Ollie Marie Phason before this body of Congress and this nation today. Her four children are fortunate to have such a loving, caring, and dedicated mother. Ms. Phason's efforts to help juveniles succeed in life have been immeasurably beneficial in the lives of many.